

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

DECEMBER 8, 2005

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that **DARREN DONTA REED**, age 35, pled guilty in United States District Court in Benton to one count of escape from the Federal Prison Camp at Marion, Illinois.

At the time of the escape, REED was serving a 90- month sentence imposed in the Eastern District of Missouri for possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

As a part of his guilty plea, REED admitted to obstructing justice by instructing another individual to lie to investigators. As a result, REED faces an enhanced sentence.

Sentencing has been set for March 6, 2005. REED faces up to 5 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and 3 years of supervised release to follow incarceration. The sentence imposed must run consecutively to the sentence of imprisonment REED was already serving at the time of the escape.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Marshal's Service and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.